

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
Environmental Stewardship Program
MIGRANT LABOR HOUSING - 2015



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Legal Authority: Public Health Code, Public Act 368 of 1978, Part 124, as amended

Description of the Program:

- Migrant labor housing is typically provided by farmers and farm labor contractors who need migrant workers to harvest or process their crops. Thirty-eight of Michigan’s agricultural crops are dependent on labor intensive hand-harvesting or processing.
- The Migrant Labor Housing Program is designed to ensure the safety of housing occupied by five or more migrant agricultural workers. Compliance with Part 124 housing rules means safe water supplies, proper sanitation facilities, proper food preparation and storage facilities, proper waste disposal, fire and structural safety.
- Quality living conditions are essential for the health of migrant workers and their families, improve worker productivity, and reduce the risk of food borne illnesses.
- MLHP staff provide field support for Michigan Works Job placement for the H2A Guest Worker Visa Program.
- Provision of multiple State of Michigan services via MLHP staff reduces overall costs and ensures requirement consistency.



Why it Matters:

- Migrant workers play an important role in the planting, cultivating, harvesting, and packaging of numerous labor-intensive crops grown in Michigan. These crops generate \$2.3 billion in farm gate revenues each year.

Key Stakeholders

- Fruit and vegetable growers
- Migrant farm workers and advocates
- Consumers of fresh fruits and vegetables
- Workforce Development Agency – H2A Guest Worker Program

Key Statistics

- Total inspections 1,934
- Occupancy inspections 720
- Sites inspected 774
- Housing units inspected 3,944
- Housing capacity 24,100
- Crop value \$2.3 B

2015 Accomplishments:

- Updated violation ranking and recording system and conducted round robin inspection training sessions to ensure uniformity in licensing.
- Additional complete housing construction plans for various capacities were developed.
- A full contingent of trained inspectors, coupled with emphasis on corrective action plan follow up and in-season occupancy inspections, increased the number of inspections performed by 37 percent over the programs three year average.

Measuring Success:

Metric	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Applications					
Not Opening	61	108	82	50	76
Opening	794	748	777	784	798
Inspections					
Licensing	895	797	935	971	1,019
H2A	34	34	51	78	88
Occupancy	9	79	694	714	720
Referral	3	12	14	22	23
Enforcement		4	4	4	3
Plan Review	8	19	22	44	81
Total *	1,028	914	1,648	1,771	1,934
Licensing					
Camps	777	704	755	772	774
Units	3,749	3,404	3,723	3,836	3,944
Capacity	22,820	21,005	22,747	23,583	24,100

* Total site visits - some inspections are multi-faceted covering licensing and H2A, for example.

Dashboards and Scorecards:

The MLHP provides quarterly updates to the departmental scorecard on the total number of inspections completed relative to the average for the previous three years. Metrics for 2015 were 108 percent, 115 percent, 138 percent, and 137 percent for the first, second, third, and fourth quarters respectively.

2016 Program Goals:

- 100 percent pre-season licensing inspections prior to occupancy and 100 percent in-season inspection during occupancy.
- Draft standalone Migrant Labor Housing legislation and amendments to Part 124 to align with United States Department of Labor and Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.